



# Annual Report



2001







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**Michelle Carpenter**  
Chief Executive



## Chief Executive's Report

Looking back on 2021, it's a year that we achieved so much but were hampered by not being able to meet with our affiliated clubs, by holding regattas and heads. This was so hard for us all. We know it's important to be able to meet our clubs and rowing family. We are looking forward to returning to normalcy again now and a full season ahead. However, "We adapted and turned our boat in the right direction while trying to balance both sides carefully".

We know that our clubs are the backbone to our organisation and 2021 was a difficult year with the closing of our sport. Although we were lucky enough as an outdoor sport to be allowed back on the water before many other sports.

Through our Club support officer and Covid working group we were able to give our clubs advice on a weekly basis with the changing rules.

During this time, we also took the opportunity to look at our rules. A working group of four initially took on the task of reviewing the Rules of Rowing Ireland with a target of taking the proposed rule changes to an extended group for further review and then to be reviewed by the clubs before voting on in the EGM/AGM in February 2022.

A special funding application ended 2021 well from Sport Ireland with an extra boost in funding of €470,000 and €100,000 for our clubs. This totals €1,900,000 for our clubs in Covid funding and capital grants for 2021

Safety is of the utmost importance in our sport and our advisory committee worked in collaboration with our colleagues in British Rowing to launch the IROW Safe safety initiative. In 2021 all clubs were required to fill in a Club safeguarding assessment. This was a requirement by Sport Ireland/Sport NI in a joint initiative. We assisted all our clubs with this and we are delighted to say out of 76 clubs identified as having junior members registered with Rowing Ireland and required to partake in the club child welfare self-assessment process, we had an over 96% engagement from these clubs.

Everyone will be aware that during all of this we were working hard to prepare for the postponed 2020 Olympic Games which took place in Tokyo in July/August of 2021. There were many challenges with managing preparations amidst a global Pandemic, ensuring that the health and welfare of our athletes was central to



all decisions. This provided our athletes with important qualification opportunities whilst at the same time minimising their travel requirements and associated risks. It was a very exciting time for Irish Rowing and whilst most of us couldn't be present, it was great to follow on live streaming and/or our social media channels. Whilst the qualification process itself ended up being very challenging, it was very heartening to see our largest ever Olympic team qualified a number we could only ever dream of with six boats qualified.

The team then went on to perform at the Games winning our first ever gold medal and Ireland's first ever Women's team medal in any sport. With top ten finishes from our Women's pair and outstanding Women's lightweight double scull that have continued to make strides in 2022. Men's Double Sculls (M2x) – Ronan Byrne & Philip Doyle finished 10th overall and Women's Single Sculls (W1x) – Sanita Puspure finished 12th. We are so proud of our team, their clubs and everyone who helped them achieve such great heights.

Our athletes come from clubs all over the country and we are proud that in 2022 we can see the diverse range of clubs involved in developing all our athletes, from Enniskillen/Belfast to Cork in the men's 4- to Galway, Dublin and Cork in our Womens' 4-. We were delighted in 2022 to sign an MOU agreement with Queen's University Belfast and thank the HP team and committee for their hard work in achieving this significant agreement.

Our Communications team also put significant work into supporting and profiling our athletes which they richly deserved. Together with spotlights on their clubs. Great credit goes to all of the athletes together with the performance team, coaches both at the event and home coaches and clubs, loved ones and all involved generally in supporting the athletes.

In 2021 our Coach Education team was overrun with the demand for education courses and learning which, thanks to our online programmes, we were in a position to deliver in the form of online modules and virtual training although we were only in a position to recommence the practical area of education training later in the year.

This was very challenging for candidates who were eager to complete their course and achieve certification and we are very grateful for the patience of many during this time.



In order to achieve equality and gender diversity in our coaching, we worked hard to engage our clubs in a number of successful initiatives. Six clubs took part in our Women on the water series and six women were selected for our women in coaching pathway and Rowing Ireland, Women in Sport led the innovation of the Women's student coaching academy that is now running for a second year with the launch event in mid-October.

## **We are committed to Rowing for all a sport for life.**

In 2021 we committed to supporting a number of new recreational tours. Four tours were organised and supported by our Women in Sport lead. We have an objective to expand this in the coming year and support our clubs with a tour organisation guide for clubs, so watch this space.

Rowing Ireland was a leading organisation in 'returning to events. We hosted a series of preparatory online workshops and documents for event organisers ahead of the government return to events date of June 7th 2021, with local events encouraged initially. In 2021 we were delighted to see the return of a calendar, starting with Neptune Regatta, University Championships and Lough Rinn Regatta and a Junior Festival of rowing in July. Physical supports such as hygiene stations, signage and covid officer visibility jackets were brought to events and all regattas were extremely well supported to maintain safety of all. A committed covid working group, championship committee and club support and events officer worked tirelessly to update covid guidance documents, answering queries and supporting organisers to ensure a safe, successful season of rowing was achieved with a Championship running in late August.

Despite access to schools being limited we continued to grow and underpin the Get Rowing programme with innovative events for students and young rowers alike. We launched the Get Rowing Team building programme. In 2021 we ran 8 Team building days.

In 2022 with the return of some normalcy we ran 14 team building days, 12 in Limerick and 2 in Dublin, over a 66% increase year on year. We are delighted to link our programme and clubs to the community and local sports partnership and are working with 15 of them ranging



from Limerick, Cork, Clare, Tipperary, Galway, Sligo, Carlow, Kilkenny, Kerry, DCC, South Dublin, DLR, Kildare, Westmeath, Offaly. We continue to grow engagement with school in Northern Ireland through our partnership with Queen's University Belfast.

We were delighted with the support demonstrated by the Government with the awarding of capital grants in 2020/2021 of €1,900,000. This grant scheme can only be availed of by affiliated clubs to our sport with Rowing Ireland and we were delighted to see so many clubs being successful with this round of funding.

The Rowing Ireland Board and staff also worked extensively in 2021. We are proud to say that Rowing Ireland as a company continued to be fully operational during the Pandemic and we are welcoming the rebuilding and growth of our sport as we emerge from the Pandemic. We are very grateful to our volunteers, our coaches, our athletes, parents, officials, and all others involved in our sport who have worked so hard in 2021 and onwards in this regard.

We are delighted to report that the new National Sport Action Plan was published towards the end of 2021 and outlined the sporting priorities for the Nation. Minister Chambers and the Department of Sport have confirmed that Rowing Ireland will continue to be supported as Ireland's leading and fastest growing sport in 2022 and onwards in line with the National Sports Policy and Sport Ireland High Performance strategy which has the potential to be transformative for Irish rowing.

We are not naïve to the fact that there are still many challenges ahead for the organisation and its clubs and members, however we are very positive about the journey ahead especially when we consider the calibre of people involved in our sport.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the whole team in Rowing Ireland. We are honoured to support you and work with you, our members and clubs. The team works considerably hard for the passion of making rowing better. From the tangible success of our incredible medals led by Antonio and his team of Dominic, Giuseppe, Fran, Nico, Leah and Michael is underpinned by the HP committee who have given tireless hours to support this success. To our core teams in the background working to support from Valerie in sports administration to Alec in Finance and operations,

Pat in Club support (Learning and Development) and his team of Gerry with Coach Education, Ceara in Women in Sport and Lucy coming on board to support vetting and antidoping. Derek and the successful and growing Get Rowing programme and Clara our newest team member with events and communications.

To our sponsors Whoop, Kinetica, Sanity Systems and Avison Young supported by our Commercial committee who worked to support us all.

I recently heard someone say that they have never seen people with such passion for a sport as they have with rowers. It's that passion and commitment that has driven us forward to be one of World Rowing and Irelands leading National Governing bodies both on the water with our clubs also with our HP success and through many of our core programmes that are innovative and forward thinking.

2021/2022 was a great year for Rowing Ireland. We achieved so much and have so much more to do and that is thanks to everyone who is involved in the sport from partners, staff, volunteers, board members, supporters, parents and friends. We have an exciting future ahead of us as the Rowing Ireland crew.



## Board Meetings

September 2021 - November 2022

### 2022 meetings attendance

21 meetings in total

Eamonn Colclough	Attended all – resigned March 2022
Garth Young	9/10
Neville Maxwell	10
Martin Hogan	10
Lisa O'Callaghan	Attended 4/7 prior to resignation
TJ Ryan	Attended 5/10
Aoife Habenicht	Attended 9/10
Carol Ann Smith	Attended 10
Gordon Reid	Attended 9/10
Nessa Foley	Attended all three
Paddy Boyd	Attended

29th January TJR/LOC apologies

26th February TJ Ryan apologies

22nd May TJ Ryan and LOC

2nd June – LOC

23rd June – TJR

17th February - SD

### Board training, attended by

Eamonn Colclough	√ (Chair training also)
Garth Young	√
Brenda Ewing	√
Neville Maxwell	√
Martin Hogan	√
Lisa O'Callaghan	√
TJ Ryan	None
Aoife Habenicht	√
Carol Ann Smith	√
Leo Gibson	√
Brian O'Flaherty	√ (secretary training also)

# By the numk

## Title

EGM

Sport Ireland Safeguarding Audit Self-Assessment

Safeguarding Audit Information Webinars

Women on the Water

AGM

Row with the Pros

COVID 19 Club Resilience Scheme

Return to Rowing Challenge

Proposed Changes to Rowing Ireland's Constitution – Webinars

Dublin Rowing Tour

Dublin Give it a Row Day

Rowkyo

Club Covid Safety

Return to Rowing Events Webinar

Go With the Flow Webinar

Balance is Better

Insurance Q&A

Good Club Governance

Club Safety Statement Webinar

Making Waves

Offshore Safety

Nutrition for Sport Workshop

Women in Coaching - Webinar Series



# ers

Type	Area	Number of Events	Participants
Webinar	Clubs and Members	1	
Webinar	Clubs and Members	8	
Webinar	Clubs and Members	2	
Training Sessions	Grassroots		
Meeting	Clubs and Members	1	
Training Sessions	Grassroots	30	8000
Webinar	Clubs and Members	1	
Competition	Clubs and Members	1	
Webinar	Clubs and Members	2	
Competition	Grassroots	1	
Training Sessions	Grassroots	1	100
Competition	Grassroots	1	3000
Webinar	Clubs and Members	1	
Webinar	Clubs and Members	1	
Webinar	Women in Sport	1	
Youtube Series	Women in Sport	6	300
Webinar	Clubs and Members	1	
Webinar	Clubs and Members	1	
Webinar	Clubs and Members	1	
Webinar	Clubs and Members	4	
Webinar	Clubs and Members	1	
Webinar	Clubs and Members	3	
Webinar	Women in Sport	4	



## Board of Directors

### **Martin Hogan**

Interim Chairman of the Board and Connacht Vice President  
Athlone BC  
Engineer (Director, JB Barry Consultants)

### **Nessa Foley**

Secretary

### **Paddy Boyd**

Board Member

### **Gordon Reid**

Board Member

### **Neville Maxwell**

Chair of High-Performance Committee  
Connacht Representative  
Neptune BC  

- Appointed to the board in Feb 2016
- Olympian 1996, 2000 Olympic Games

### **Carol-Ann Smith**

Board Member  
Appointed Board Director in March 2017.  

- Appointed Chairperson of the Audit & Risk Committee in 2018.
- Member of the Governance Committee and the Remuneration Committee since 2021
- Professional background as insolvency advisor in practice, banking and public sector.
- Company Director, Leadership & Team Coach and Consultant, Arbitrator.
- Currently undertaking the Professional Certificate in Governance with the IPA.

### **Aoife Habenicht**

Leinster Representative  
Neptune RC  

- Founded the Commercial Committee in September 2019 to focus on sponsorship.
- Director of Aldi Ireland.
- Trained negotiator.



### **T J Ryan**

Munster Representative  
Skibbereen BC

### **Brenda Ewing**

Domestic Events Committee / Safeguarding  
Ulster Vice President  
Belfast BC

- Business owner
- L2 coach
- Coach Ed Tutor
- past Club Secretary and Treasurer - 35 yrs
- past Umpire 31yrs
- Event Organiser – HoR and Regatta Designated Children's Officer - vetting and Safeguarding updates
- Chair DEC – new Regatta structure 2010, Tracker upgrades
- Chair RIUB

### **Garth Young**

HP Committee Member  
Ulster Representative  
Belfast BC

- Company Director, Business Owner.
- Level 1 Coach,
- Past Club Captain,
- Past Club President, Event Organiser.

### **David Hussey**

Coastal Rowing

- Appointed by the board on June 2019
- Reappointed July 2020.

Dominic Burke

Independent Director (Legal background)

- Independent Director
- Appointed May 2018 and reappointed annually at AGMs since then
- Solicitor with 15 years' experience, including in governance, risk management and insurance issues.



**Antonio Maurogiovanni**  
High-Performance  
Director



# High Performance Directors Report

## Executive Summary

As a post-Olympic year, 2022 has been a very busy and challenging one. An overall of 19 medals were won across all of the categories (male/female/para) at the following competitions: Coupe, World Cup, European Championships and World Championships. It needs to be noted that 15 out of the 19 medals were on Olympic Boats. Based on this year's International results and based on the Sport Ireland's International Carding Criteria Program, we are entitled to apply for 27 athletes. Looking at the overall results, we can say that the island of Ireland has a Rowing High Performance Team across all the categories: Heavyweight and Lightweight – Scullers and Sweepers – Female and Male. This is an outstanding outcome.

## Background by Category

### Senior Category

2021-2022 has been a post-Olympic year but has also fallen into year two (2) of the 2024 Paris Olympic Cycle. The Tokyo cycle was a very unique Olympic cycle because of COVID-19 and the extension of the preparation cycle from four (4) to five (5) years which did have an impact on the team (athletes and coaching staff), contributing to physiological challenges but, mainly psychological challenges.

For the above reasons, the decision was made to provide flexibility to all the HP Tokyo team allowing them to focus on their own parallel careers. This enabled a group of athletes to prioritise their Master's course, University, additional courses and jobs.

### Reg the U23 and U19 category

Unfortunately, the number of the athletes invited to the trials and of them meeting the criteria was very low. For instance, we had no U23 females at the selection, and the U23 selected were the ones that were based in Cork at the NRC. Unfortunately, the date of the Irish Championships clashed with the selection and training period for the U23 and U19 World Championships. This had a negative impact on the Clubs, the University club coaches and rowers, putting them in the unfavourable position to have to make a choice between attending the National Championships or the selections and training camps for the National Team.

Outcomes by Category

### U19

Two (2) main international competitions were held and attended in 2022:

#### **2022 Coupe de la Jeunesse**

Castrelo De Mino (Spain)

Coach: Ray Morrison, Andy Purdy, Miles Taylor

#### **Saturday Results**

- **JM2x** Gold medals
- **JM1x** 5th A Final
- **JM4+** 6th A Final
- **JW4-** 1st B Final

#### **Sunday Results**

- **M2x** Gold medals
- **JM1x** 6th A Final
- **JM4+** 5th A Final
- **JW4-** 6th A Final

#### **U19 2022 World Championships**

Varese (Italy)

HPD as Head Coach

Team Manager: Michael O'Rourke

Coaches: Leah O'Reagan, Janet Walsh

- **JW2x** 6th
- **JM2x** 13th
- **JW4x** 9th

This was a transition year considering the very low number of U19's being part of the trials.

Overall this can be seen as a positive result although we were anticipating one medal and one final.

### Under 23

Two (2) main International Competitions were held and attended in 2022

#### **2022 U23 World Championships**

Varese (Italy)

HPD as Head Coach

Team Manager: Michael O'Rourke

Coaches: Leah O'Reagan, Nicolo' Maurogiovanni, John Armstrong



- **BM2x** - Bronze
- **BLM2x** - Silver
- **BM4-** - Bronze
- **BW1x** - Bronze (World Record)

### 2022 U23 European Championships

Hazewinkel, Belgium

Coach: John Armstrong

- **BLM1x** Silver
- **BLW1X** 7th
- **BM1x** 10th

Across the two top U23 International competitions (World and European) there were Seven (7) crews represented and six (6) medals were won. This is a great achievement which will be very difficult to repeat, as most of the athletes were part of the past Coupe, U19 and U23 teams having demonstrated an initial solid pathway.

### Senior A

Across 2022 three (3) main international events were attended.

### 2022 World Cup 2

Poznan, Poland

HPD as Head Coach

Team Manager: Michael O'Rourke

Coaches: Dominic Casey, Giuseppe De Vita, Conor Moloney, Leah O'Reagan

- **W2x** Silver
- **W4-** Bronze
- **W2-** Bronze
- **LW2x** Bronze
- **LM1x** Silver
- **PR2mix2x** 4th
- **PR2 W1x** Gold (World record)

### 2022 World Cup 3

Lucerne, Switzerland

Coach: Dominic Casey

- **LM1x** Gold (World cup record)



## 2022 European Championships

Munich, Germany

HPD as Head Coach

Team Manager: Michael O'Rourke

Coaches: Dominic Casey, Giuseppe De Vita, Conor Moloney, Leah O'Regan

- **LM2x** Gold
- **W4-** Silver
- **PR2mix2x** 4th
- **LW1x** 4th
- **W2-** 4th
- **LW2x** 4th

## 2022 World Championships

Racice, Czech Republic

HPD as Head Coach

Team Manager: Michael O'Rourke

Coaches: Dominic Casey, Giuseppe De Vita, Fran Keane, Nicolo Maurogiovanni, Conor Moloney, Leah O'Regan

- **LM2x** Gold
- **W2x** Bronze
- **LW2x** Bronze
- **PR2W1x** Gold
- **PR2mix2x** 5th
- **W4-** 6th
- **M4-** 8th
- **W2-** 8th
- **LW1x** 9th
- **M2x** 13th
- **M1x** 13th
- **W1x** 15th
- **M1x** 15th
- **LM1x** 21st



## Reflections

As a Rowing Federation the High Performance program has consolidated last year's ranking position within the International map across all categories except for the U19's.

The main pillars for the success of the program which need further improvement are:

- SI, SNI, RI and Sport Institute support
- A centralised program
- Quality of the training program
- Uniformity of the technical model
- Coaching team
- Service Providers team with some of them Cork based
- Exclusive use of the NRC
- Positive and enthusiastic training environment

The main challenges to keep and even improve the current level are:

- Club coaches
- University's support towards the Rowing Program
- Pathway strategy
- Funding commensurate to the results/achievements of the program

## Recommendations

### Regional Pathway

The NI Regional Pathway has been successfully implemented. The collaboration between Sport NI and RI affiliated NI clubs and RI was already in place and has now been even more productive. This year, saw for the U23 national team, four (4) HP rowers, all QUBBC members, all of which won a medal. Other five (5) NI athletes were members of the Senior team racing in Racice. Three (3) coaches' formed the NI pathway by collaborating with RI coaching at the U23 and U19 at a Rowing Ireland squad level. The vision is the right one for an organisation like Rowing Ireland and I'm confident that it will also work for other regions of the organisation. Although there is no formal agreement with UCC, the collaboration has been effective. The University is very supportive and flexible, helping the HP program as much as they can in the best interest of the athletes. Work is also being undertaken with UL with the objective of reaching a clear, transparent, and productive agreement. Trinity

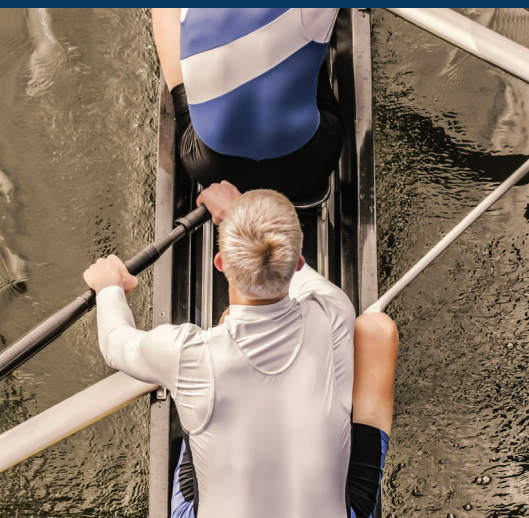
and UCD part of RI pathway is still a realistic one and will be a key priority for 2023. An attempt has been made to launch a European U23 University based team involving the Head Coaches of Dublin's based University. There has been an initial interest but more work needs to be done if this is to come into effect. A positive outcome has been the increase of athletes (across all categories) from a diverse number of clubs around the island of Ireland.

### National Rowing Centre

The team size centralised at the NRC can go from a minimum of 20 to a maximum of 35. The number will be dependent on the carding application's program process, and the number of the U19 and U23 crews selected later on in the year. A significant amount of work has been undertaken in the last two to three years at the NRC, to make sure that the centre is as suitable and appropriate for High Performance Athletes and Coaches. The 2016 Rio report states the NRC as "a toxic environment". Since the pandemic the restrictions recommended by Sport Ireland and the Government, the NRC was exclusively utilised by the different High Performance team's athletes and coaches, with a strong focus in creating an ideal training environment; by ensuring it was safe, enjoyable and positive. There has been a positive impact also from a logistics point of view, with renovations planned and being finalised for the Coaches' office and athlete's lounges. Thanks to all the national coaches, NRC staff and all the athletes, the Centre is very close to being seriously classified as a High Performance Rowing Centre. Across the last three (3) years the performance of all of the teams, must be equally seen as a merit to the safe and conducive environment which would not have been possible without the exclusive utilisation of the Centre by High Performance. The support offered by Rowing Ireland during the last three (3) years has played a positive impact to resolve some of the existing "discomforts". A positive environment of trust is imperative to be maintained in order to ensure and even improve upon the current level of the national team's performances.

### PARA

Several discussions and meetings were held during these last two (3) years. The High Performance Para program forms part of the High Performance Strategic Plan but is reliant on funding. Considerable work still needs to be done within the Para program. The determination of



Katie and Stephen with their coach is admirable. But a sustainable and resourced program needs to be planned and implemented which must include a national Para talent identification plan and a club and coaches' development strategy. This year's results have shown the potential to qualify a boat for the 2024 Paris Olympics but pending of commensurate financial support.

### Rowing Coaches

This year, there was a significant number of clubs and national coaches as part of the National Teams. They all did a massive and excellent job and I want to take the opportunity to thank all of them for their exceptional dedication and enthusiasm. It is second to none. However, the situation of the Rowing Coaches in Ireland is critical. This difficult situation also makes it a great opportunity for the Rowing Ireland Board to develop a strategy specifically designed to increase the number and quality of the Coaches in Ireland. There is a need to shift the current paradigm of coaches not being seen as a high priority and integral part of a successful Rowing program in Ireland. This is equally true in other high performance sport programs.

Two (2) main and well linked problems have been identified:

- The specific rowing education and preparation: an excellent job has been done in the past regarding the enrolment, classification and graduation of a significant number of coaches with a Level 1, 2 and 3 certificate. Unfortunately, these qualifications are currently not appropriate and adequate anymore since the level of Rowing is substantially different and specific abilities are required which are essential. As recommended last year, completely different Coach Education Courses needs to be put in place.

The Rowing Coach as a profession: it is well known that the number of full time paid coaches in Ireland is limited and definitely inadequate to the level of its athletes and the number of Rowing domestic Associations. I have been strongly recommending to Rowing Ireland to elaborate a strong and productive strategy in order to help all of the clubs to be in the position to self-generate an income and employ one or more full and part time paid coaches. The volunteer coaches are a great resource, but must be in addition to a paid coach. There is no HP well



ranked country in the world without a significant number of well prepared and paid coaches.

- Finance (more funding to support bigger number of carding)

Rowing in Ireland appears to be one of the top sports, based on medals won and the potential to succeed at the 2024 Paris Games. Based on this year's International competitions, Rowing Ireland could and should have the highest number of athletes on the carding international program. This further confirms the position of the HP of Rowing within the Island. However, there is a high risk of the funding not being allocated based on the number of HP athletes. An increase in HP athletes means a need to increase coaches, an increase to costs for camps, events, equipment, etc. If the funding were to remain the same there would be no choice but to take the difficult decision to downsize the team, which in turn would create a high level of discontent. As such the discussion around funding levels must be of the highest priority for Rowing Ireland.

### Annual Plan

The final 2023 Annual Plan will be shortly finalised. HP athletes and coaches are hoping to see the RI AGM confirm a suitable date for the Irish Championships to allow all HP athletes (SA, U23, Jun) to compete with their clubs and still pursue to represent Rowing Ireland in the world.

HPD

**Antonio Maurogiovanni**

#### Chairperson

Robert Dunne  
Sabrina O' Carroll  
Evan Molloy  
Robert Dunne  
Denis O' Regan  
Steven Archibald

## Safety Advisory Committee

### Safety Advisory Introduction/Mission

To advise the board of Rowing Ireland on all safety matters arising in our sport. To identify trends in incidents and accidents and to advise clubs on resulting required actions to maintain safety standards.

### Key Achievements/Activities for 2021

Monitoring of IROW Safe the new online reporting system Assistance was provided to the Covid-19 working group during the weekly meeting of the group. The group met every Monday evening to review the current restrictions in place in The Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland and to establish and communicate appropriate guidance to clubs.

iRow Safe reports were examined to identify any trends in accidents or incidents during the year. The uptake of incident reporting on the iRow safe system was very low during the year.

The committee was aware of incidents occurring around the country but no reports were made on a number of these incidents and occurrences.

### Introduction of Safety Bulletin

Positive feedback has been received on items covered in the Rowing Ireland safety bulletin

### Looking Forward - 2022

Continued Development of a certified launch drivers' course.

Highlighting the hazards and risk associated with Rowing and the measures that can be undertaken to ensure the continued high compliance standards within our clubs. Developing standards of safety to ensure inclusivity with all our regulations.

Seek representation from Para Rowing onto the safety advisory committee.

## Conclusion

I would like to thank the committee for their commitment and passion towards safety in our sport. Covid made normal life very difficult during 2021. The work of the Rowing Ireland Covid – 19 working group and the support of the Rowing Ireland Safety Advisory Committee helped to keep Rowing Ireland members safe and to allow rowing activities to proceed safely where and when possible.

For a group of volunteers to take on the responsibility of being part of the Rowing Ireland safety advisory committee shows the type of characters within this organisation.

The Rowing Ireland community owes a debt of gratitude to those members that have agreed to actively take part in making our sport safe and inclusive for all.

Chairperson

Brenda Ewing  
Kieran Kerr  
Lisa O'Callaghan



## Domestic Events Committee

### Introduction/Mission

The purpose of the Domestic Events Committee is to plan the development of and to oversee domestic competition in Ireland with a view to maintaining and raising standards.

Key achievements/activities since September 2021: The committee had significant input to the quadrennial Rules Review exercise both in terms of helping to review suggestions from clubs/Branches and in drafting clarifications and additions to address inconsistencies and gaps in the existing rules.

A long awaited return to a more normal rowing season also saw a welcome (sort of!) upswing in the committee's normal workload relating to scheduling (and re-scheduling) of events, appointing Observers for events and reviewing feedback, handling Tracker queries (generally Registration queries and points allocations), overseeing Kit and Blade approvals (updates and new club affiliations) and reviewing Overseas entries (to ensure that all RI athletes are correctly registered to participate in overseas events and that points for overseas wins are correctly awarded.)

The committee also provided practical support for the use of the RaceClocker app for timing at the Championships, replacing the now ageing custom-built system which had served RI well for a number of seasons at Championship and Grand League regattas.

A number of personnel changes in the core RI team took place during the year. A warm welcome to Lucy and Clara (and thanks to Ceara who moved to a new RI role). Brenda did an excellent job mentoring the new team (and me!). Everyone has bedded in very well and from the perspective of Domestic Events a spirit of friendly and enthusiastic professionalism abounds.

### Looking forward 2022

The Rules Review and the return to a normal activity levels following the Covid years has meant that progress on other planned activities has slipped into 2022/23. In the coming year we will therefore be involved in a number of initiatives:

Event Workshops – aimed at encouraging new ideas



and initiatives to make the racing calendar and the scheduling of events as effective and successful as possible

Ongoing review of rules and points system – are we maximising participation and promoting strong and fair competition across domestic events?

**Event Guidance** – providing practical guidance and assistance for organising committees, especially to support new events and to help new volunteers get involved in organising and running Heads and Regattas  
**Tracker Upgrade / Replacement** – Tracker remains an invaluable tool and a source of much critical data that can help inform and support the development of our sport. The committee will continue to play a key role in helping to maintain the existing functionality and in developing a new and upgraded system that will continue to serve the needs of clubs, athletes and administrators in the years ahead.

**Draft 2023 Calendar** – the calendar has been published for final discussion at the fixtures meeting and ratification at the AGM. It is the intention next year to publish a 2-year 'look ahead' covering both the 2024 and 2025 seasons. In pulling this together we will draw upon ideas and discussions from the Event Workshops mentioned above.

The Domestic Events Committee expects to be extremely busy in the year ahead. Almost all official business can be very efficiently transacted by email and I am extremely grateful for the experience, expertise and constructive input which the other members bring to the metaphorical table.

As with all of RI volunteer committees we are actively seeking new members, especially amongst the younger cohort of the rowing community (I've done what I can to lower the average age – but not by much!!) For anyone who loves rowing, participating any of the committees (and Domestic Events in particular) is a genuinely fascinating and rewarding experience. All you need is a little spare time, an open mind and a sense of humour.

**Lisa O Callaghan**  
Chairperson

**Committee Members**

Kieran Kerr  
Con Cronin  
Michelle McDonough  
Brendan O'Dea  
Ceara O'Connor  
Denis O'Regan  
Eamonn Colclough  
Seamus Scully  
Pat Kiely

## Irish Rowing Championships

This year's event included Junior 19 category in the men's and women's to allow the athletes that missed out on the opportunity to race in the championship at junior 18 level last year due to the covid-19 pandemic. Due to the Coronavirus, there were no J16 or Master events held this year. For the first time we used a drone service to live stream the event with people from different parts of the world being able to view the competition from afar.

The table below shows the entries in each category.

Category	Numbers
Senior Men	130
Senior Women	105
Light Weight Men	8
Light Weight Women	9
Intermediate Men	144
Intermediate Women	111
Club Men	138
Club Women	123
Novice Men	15
Novice Women	43
Junior 18 Men	224
Junior 18 Women	230
Junior 19 Men	59
Junior 19 Women	29

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all our volunteers that made a huge contribution to the running of our Championships this year. The Championship Committee, Umpires, Championship facility staff, Time keepers, launch drivers, commentary team, Slip Marshalls, Bow Number distributors and the many, many, more whom without their help and support we could not run this competition.

From all involved thank you, for your often unheralded,  
but always appreciated contribution

**Andrew Tubman**  
Chairperson

**Committee Members**  
TJ Ryan  
Susan Dunlea  
Eamonn Colclough  
Kayla McCann



## Umpires Committee

### Introduction

- To evaluate and re-licence new and existing umpires
- Be able to interpret Rowing Ireland rules and make any recommendations on the use of rules at Irish regattas
- To ensure athletes are provided with safe and fair racing
- To provide training and support to new and existing umpires
- To ensure transparent pathways towards World Rowing umpiring for suitable candidates
- To increase the number of active Rowing Ireland umpires

### Key achievement

- Following covid there was a need to update the existing umpires database to ensure that the list is up to date and accurate. This continues to be a work in progress.
- To ensure we are GDPR compliant umpires most opt in to the mailing list. Disappointingly there was a 42% return rate.
- Two exams were held for new umpires in Dublin (11 successful candidates) and Shandon (6 successful candidates).
- Two online renewal seminars were held this season

### Looking forward 2022:

- 4 exams will be held in Ulster, Leinster, Connaught, and Munster in Jan-March 2023. Dates to be confirmed shortly.
- 2 online renewal exams will be held in Jan-March 2023.
- Umpires committee are revising current written exam questions, ensuring these are up to date and relevant to umpiring
- Discussions are ongoing about the introduction of an Umpires association. Further information will be circulated in due course.
- The committee are committed to development of Rowing Ireland umpires and ensuring there is a transparent pathway towards World Rowing umpiring for suitable candidates. Further information to be circulated to umpires.
- A new online sign-up form will be introduced for the



2023 regatta season, allowing umpires to register their availability to umpire at events.

## Conclusion

The committee would like to thank all umpires who assisted at events across Ireland during this season. The committee is particularly thankful for umpires who have retired from umpiring this season after many years of support.

**Gerry Farrell,**  
Coach Education  
Coordinator



## Coach Education Programme

### Introduction/Mission

Coaching is an essential support for rowers allowing them to develop and maximize their athletic ability. The coaching pathway is primarily linked to the rower's pathway. It offers appropriate training and courses to coaches who wish to work with rowers in the different stages of their development.

### Key Achievements/Activities for 2021

The constraints imposed by COVID allowed us to reimagine how to best deliver our courses. By taking advantage of developments in online teaching models we have produced hybrid courses allowing coaches to learn through a combination of online learning and hands on experience with our experienced tutors. To date we have put over 250 through our Assistant Coaching Course.

The Level One Course comprising over 27 hours of learning had 60 coaches registered and were delivered in Cork, Dublin, Belfast.

A Level Two Course is in progress in conjunction with the Women in Sport coaching initiative and further courses are planned.

### Looking Forward - 2022

Along with delivering more Intro and Level One courses, we will offer places on the new Level Two course in the new year. We will also establish a Coach Licensing System to provide a better service to coaches through offering specialist courses and once off workshops.

### Conclusion

Continued rolling out of our courses relies on our volunteer Coach Developers. I would like to record, on behalf of everyone in Irish rowing, our thanks to them for the many hours they put into developing and delivering courses throughout the island.

# Club Support Officer

## Introduction

The main aim of the club support officer was to support club growth internally by helping clubs increase in membership and capacity, and externally by encouraging and facilitating the joining of new rowing clubs in all codes of rowing to become part of our organisation.

## Key Achievements/Activities for 2021

COVID-19 continued to dominate our lives this past year a number of club initiatives and webinars were launched to support clubs in engaging members and furthering the knowledge base of club volunteers.

Event planning, club COVID Officer, event COVID Officer and safety webinars were conducted with a very high turnout from clubs throughout the country north and south.

The Rowing Ireland Safety Bulletin was published by the safety advisory committee and supported by the club support office.

The club support officer continued engagement with the Offshore and Coastal committees regarding further integration into Rowing Ireland. The numbers involved in Coastal and Offshore rowing continue to grow more support for these growing aspects of rowing in Ireland is required.

Support was given to the flatwater championship committee, this committee continues to work tirelessly at promoting our championship and making the experience one that rowers, coaches, volunteer, spectators and officials can participate in and enjoy safely, while being able to compete at the highest level.

The COVID-19 working group met every Monday evening when required during the pandemic to interpret restrictions, to liaison with Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland and to create guidance to keep our clubs and their members safe. A huge debt of gratitude is due to the individuals that volunteered to take on this role.

A lot of work went into the AGM preparation regarding the proposed rule changes. The rule change working group, and the extended group worked tirelessly during the year to prepare the proposed changes for the clubs

**Pat Kiely**  
Club Support Officer



to review and to vote on at the AGM.

### Looking Forward - 2021

Further improvements in club support will take place over the coming months with affiliation, registration and entry to competition needing to be streamlined and updated. A working group is already working on a new tracker system with ease of functionality for club administrators and their members a priority.

### Conclusion

I would like to acknowledge the assistance from a large number of people (too many to mention) for the support given to me during the year. Rowing clubs continued to grow in strength, numbers and success. After a very successful year, club support looks forward to building resources, contacts and knowledge to share with our clubs to sustain growth and enjoyment of the wonderful sport of rowing.

## Offshore Events Committee

### Introduction/Mission:

The mission of the Offshore Rowing Committee is to organise, develop and promote World Rowing Coastal (Offshore) rowing and Beach Sprints in Ireland in a safe and fair manner. For those not familiar with this type of rowing, it is rowing in single, double and coxed quad sculling boats with a sliding seat. The self-draining boats are wider and heavier than traditional flatwater boats and are designed for competition on the open sea. When Rowing Ireland created this division in 2017 there were approximately 30 offshore boats in the country. Since then, the interest in this form of rowing has exploded and it is anticipated there will be close to 400 offshore boats in the country by the end of the year. Beach Sprints is tipped to be the next Olympic Sport. The committee are making strides in the development of the sport.

### Key achievements/activities for 2021

One of the first activities of the new committee was to put in place a comprehensive regatta calendar. The 5th Irish Offshore Rowing Championships were hosted by Bantry Rowing Club. This was a challenge for the local club but are known for running an excellent regatta each year spoilt with the location on the Aerodrome in Bantry. The Offshore Committee ran a number of webinars on safety, rigging, and tracker to educate the clubs on its use and the feedback was highly positive. The World Coastal Rowing Championships saw a big number of competitors attend the World Rowing Coastal Championships and World Rowing Beach Sprints Finals in Portugal with covid measures in place for each event.

### Looking forward 2022

The Offshore committee are making preparations to put a pathway in place for Beach Sprints qualifications as well as planning for the 2022 Irish Offshore Championships in Wicklow, WRCC ranking Regatta in Loughros, Beach Sprint Ranking in Duneeen in 2022 and the Inaugural Home International Beach Sprints, and the Inaugural ERCC.

### Conclusion

Offshore rowing continues to be the fastest growing form

**Margaurite Deasy**  
Chairperson

### Committee Members

Robert Dunne  
Andrew Hurley  
Teresa Keeney  
Cormac Kelly  
James Boomer





of rowing in Ireland. While the 4k endurance racing is by far the most popular discipline, we also need to examine and put a pathway in place for the 500m beach sprints which are likely to be the future Olympic coastal format. In that regard the committee are preparing to host a beach sprint ranking regatta event for crews to qualify for the WRBSF, ERCC, and the Home International. It is our ambition to have Irish crews competing for podium positions in both endurance and beach sprint events at World level in the coming years and qualifying boats for the Beach Sprint Games.

## Coastal Events Committee

### Introduction

The mission of the Coastal Division is the provision of Coastal Rowing, which is inclusive and Club led, with clear communications and transparent administration. This type of rowing takes place in traditional timber boats or a fiberglass coxed four, all of which are fixed seat. Crews attach to a buoy at the start of the race and race a straight course before turning a buoy and returning.

### Key achievements

The Irish Coastal Rowing Championships took place at the NRC in August. The regatta was held under Covid restrictions and spectators were not permitted to attend. Extensive planning took place in advance to ensure the safety of the competitors and the officials. 207 crews competed in what was widely viewed as a safe and successful regatta.

**Coastal Safety:** A coastal safety webinar was held in March as part of Rowing Ireland Safety Week. This covered topics included boat handling, trailer towing, water safety and the use of PFDs.

Two Coastal Stewarding (umpiring) education sessions were held online in advance of the Coastal Championships. This standardised the approach to umpiring at the Coastal Championships.

A complete review of Coastal Championship race categories was undertaken, to examine whether the current offering is appropriate and if it is having any impact on athlete retention. A report was compiled and, while no changes were recommended at this time, it will form a useful reference for future reviews.

### Looking forward 2022

The Coastal Championships is planned for 13th/14th August, to be held in Schull in West Cork. This is the first time the Coastal Championships will be held outside the NRC and in a coastal venue. This is a key component of helping to rebuild coastal clubs membership base which has been severely reduced during the pandemic.

**Danny Hayes**  
Chairperson

#### Committee Members

Marie Kinsella  
Robert Dunne  
David Hussey  
Ted McSweeney  
Aoife Murphy  
Bernie O'Donovan  
Shane Russell

**Derek Bowen**  
Get Going Get Rowing  
Programme Lead



## Get Going Get Rowing Programme

### Introduction/Mission

The Get Going Get Rowing programme started in 2014 with funding from Women in Sport and Sport Ireland. We have seen an increase in participation year on year until the pandemic hit in 2020. We have seen a steady growth in participants from over 4000 in 2014 to over 30,000 in 2019. Our mission is to introduce 1000s to the sport of rowing and to make teenagers think differently about being active and participating in sport. We are raising the profile of Rowing and creating an awareness among young people who would probably not have considered rowing as an option for them. We create a pathway from the machine to the water with our programme and our on-the-water sessions and camps.

### Key Achievements

In 2021 we successfully delivered programmes to 120 schools nationwide with over 23,000 students participating in programs, this figure has shown a strong recovery from 2020 with only 17,000 students involved in programmes. As the pandemic was still a factor in 2021, we had still not arrived back to the pre-pandemic participation figures of 32,000 students but school bookings and figures from September to December 2021 show we are predicted to be back to pre-covid numbers for 2022.

We continued in 2021 to deliver many more outdoor programs including our "On the Water" PE classes in Cork, Limerick and Dublin. We successfully delivered "On the Water" PE classes to over 1900 students in Limerick, Cork and Dublin in 2021 with over 100 classes delivered nationwide.

In 2021 we also launched schools team building days in Limerick, a combination of "On the Water" rowing activities and land-based team building games, these proved very successful with 9 schools actively participating in 2021. These 9 schools plus 4 further schools have already booked again for 2022 showing nearly a 50% growth in this programme year on year. The participation in our summer camps has continued to grow by over 50% year on year over the past number of years. In 2021 we expanded our Summer Camps out of Dublin and into Cork. During the summer of 2021 we saw over 220 teenagers take part in our camps with 120 teenagers taking part in our Cork camps. Many of these

teens have continued to row in local clubs in Cork and Dublin as these camps continue to be a strong feeder system into local clubs.

## Looking Forward – 2022

With the lifting of all pandemic restrictions, 2022 is expected to be a bumper year for Get Going Get Rowing and we are hoping to surpass our 2019 figure of 32,000 people engaged in our programmes. We have added 40 Rowing machines to our fleet of machines to enable us deliver more programmes than ever before. We have added 3 touring quads to our fleet of boats to further enhance our delivery of “On the water” PE classes and team building days in Cork, Dublin, Limerick and now Leitrim (Lough Rinn). We have renewed our partnerships with many of the local sports partnerships including Dublin city and South Dublin and we have agreed new partnerships in counties such as Clare, Tipperary and Kilkenny.

In 2022 we hope to hit a milestone of over 400 teenagers involved in our summer camps as we look to expand our camps into more counties. We will engage more schools than ever before in our “On the Water” PE classes at more locations around the country. We will deliver our TrY Leadership programme to over 1500 teenagers nationwide bringing these 1500 students onto the coaching ladder and hopefully creating the coaches of tomorrow.

## Conclusion

We are looking forward to a very successful school year 2022/23. We have more equipment than ever before to allow us deliver more programs than ever before throughout the country, our aim is to get more and more people “hooked” on rowing. Our Dublin Coordinator has now branched out and has become our Leinster Coordinator and we have just announced the appointments of a new Limerick and Cork Coordinator. We are constantly bringing on more coaches to coach rowing in schools and are continuously on the lookout for new coaches. If you are interested in trying to grow rowing in your locality, please contact [Getrowing@rowingireland.ie](mailto:Getrowing@rowingireland.ie)

**Ceara O'Connor**  
Women in Sport Lead



## Women in Sport

### Introduction

Achieve gender balance in all aspects of the sport of rowing in Ireland – participation, coaching, officiating, governance and visibility.

### Key Achievements

2021 was a historic year for women in sport in Rowing Ireland with our first Olympic medal for women's rowing and 9 female Olympians.

Row with the Pro's - participation support via online erg sessions continued from 2020 as sport was still restricted by the pandemic. The sessions were extremely well attended and featured female HP athletes such as Sanita Puspure. Women in Sport lead Claire Lambe led Friday Core sessions.

The first Women's Student Coach Academy was launched in collaboration with Student Sport Ireland. 2 female student coaches were supported through a year-long programme consisting of networking, mentoring, leadership and coach education.

1000+ viewers online of the 'Balance is Better' exercise classes.

250 women participated in the 'Give it a Row' day, a try rowing participation initiative timed around the Olympics and increased visibility for rowing clubs.

2021 saw the launch of the Women on the Water - a National adults learn-to-row programme, a pioneering programme which saw 76 women complete an 8 week course. In 2021, the programme sold out in locations across Ireland (Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway).

3 Female leaders in rowing were supported on to the Swim Ireland leadership programme where they learned leadership skills and accessed a network with female leaders in other sports.

9 regional Women in Coaching Networks established across Ireland. Over 160 coaches continued to engage in a coaching network. The networks have enabled direct communication between Women in Sport Lead/NGB and female coaches in clubs.



Webinar Series - In 2020 a series of webinars took place on various women in sport topics and this continued into 2021 including a highly attending webinar on menstrual health (over 500 sign ups).

## **Women in Sport Week**

A review of Gender Balance on the Rowing Ireland Board and recommendations were made for approval by the board. Constitutional change was made for a 40% minimum gender balance on the board. At the end of 2021, 31% of the board were females. On our committees, the ratio of female to male chairs was 6:9.

HerOutdoors Week - a series of learn to row camps in Dublin, Cork, Limerick and recreational tours marked the celebration of HerOutdoors week with tours in Limerick and Graiguenamanagh and a return to rowing drive around the country.

## **Looking Forward – 2022**

- Celebrate International Women's Day with a collaborative creative video of female rowers and coaches from clubs all around Ireland
- Continue our HP Coaching Pathway – 6 coaches gain support with personal development workshops, mentorship, technical workshops with HP director and access to the HP coaching environment. Programme is ongoing.
- Launch a club leadership programme with Triathlon Ireland aimed at female club committee members where they will learn leadership skills, network and have a mentor.
- Host HerOutdoors Week 2022
- Continue the growth of the Women on the Water Programme
- Support the return of the Grand Canal Challenge and any other GGGR school girl events
- Develop a female umpires pathway programme
- Continue monthly sessions for the Female Coaches Network with monthly sessions planned for January to April.



## Conclusion

Whilst 2021 continued the challenges of Covid until the return to sport in June 2021 and the majority of our planned initiatives moved online, progress was made towards our Women in Sport short term goals.

The number of initiatives and WiS agenda in 2021 focussed on adult female participation and recreational rowing. More focus is needed on umpiring - increasing women and support in officiating. A club development and leadership programme for female committee members in 2022 would further our members ability to influence gender balance and parity at grassroots level.

# Commercial Report

## Introduction

To secure additional financing for Rowing Ireland through Sponsorship agreements and supplier contracts with external companies.

The overall KPI of this committee is to match 15% of SportIreland funding each year (€164k currently), either in monetary value or product which will lead to less outgoings.

To assist the CEO to manage all public relation activities and media channels.

**Maximise Sponsorship Opportunities:** Enter into appropriate sponsorship agreements that best benefit Rowing Ireland and our athletes.

**Better Manage Sponsor Relations:** Ensure valid contractual documentation for all monies received from any organization going forward as well as to preserve a good relationship with all outgoing sponsors. No sponsorship deals can be accepted without being ratified by three of the four members of this committee in order to ensure tight control.

**Drive Brand Awareness:** To promote Rowing Ireland within the commercial sector through simple but well-executed sponsorship arrangements and continuing to create a healthy brand image after the success of Tokyo 2020 and leading into Paris 2024.

**Marketing:** To assist the CEO with all marketing, PR and GreenBlades issues arising.

## Key achievements

A partnership with Sport Sponsorship experts; Onside, was entered into at a cost of €12,500. As part of this, research was conducted in order to ensure Rowing Ireland were approaching potential sponsors showcasing the correct elements of our sport. The areas recommended to focus on were identified as:

- Sustainability
- Female empowerment - HP athletes but also keeping teenage girls in sports for longer
- Potential growth within our sport over the coming years - focus on growth at club level

**Aoife Habenicht**  
Chairperson

## Committee Members

Michelle Carpenter  
John Gleeson  
Rich Stock



The Commercial Committee was formed in 2020 and the following funding has been achieved:

**2019** - €97,000 (pre-committee being formed)  
**2020** - 147,000 (+51.5% YoY)  
**2021** - €163,500 (+11.2% YoY during Covid and a lack of competitions)  
**2022** - €265,500 (+62.4% YoY) against a target of €164,000

This was achieved through the following existing partnerships:

SPONSOR	2022 AGREEMENT
TECHCRETE	Blessington project
AVISON YOUNG	€3,000 (cash)
POWERHOUSE	€11,000 (official HP gear)
BOYNE VALLEY	€87,500 (in product for HP and clubs)
SANITY SYSTEMS	€27,000 (HP truck)
MG MOTORS	€46,000 (three cars)
DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL	€61,000 (cash)
WHOOPI	€30,000 (in product)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€265,500</b>

## 2023 Targets

- Target of bringing in 15% of Sport Ireland funding which is €164,000 but strive to achieve €265,500 in line with 2022's achievement.
- To enter into an agreement with a textile company who will offer the leisurewear/travel kit for the HP team.
- To drive views/followers on social media - a target of 20,000 followers by December 2023 (current: Rowing Ireland followers: 9,397 plus 2,023 Rowing Ireland Offshore = 11,420)
- To create inextricable links between Rowing Ireland and our partners/suppliers
- To highlight our athletes and maximise positive PR
- To better communicate with clubs to showcase a united entity

## Looking Forward – 2022

Whilst 2022 was an extremely successful year in terms of funding and sponsorship, a focused approach towards managing current sponsors and official suppliers is to be the aim for 2023. There is currently nobody within the Rowing Ireland staff who has been given this remit. This is to be considered going forward.



**Emily Duloherly**  
Vice-President  
Munster Branch



## Munster Branch Report

This is the Branch report covering the period October 2021 – November 2022

It was great to have a normal season again. The season started with the Head of River series. Events were held in Castleconnell, Skibbereen (Marina), Shandon (Marina), Limerick, and Cork. Unfortunately Muckross Head of river was cancelled. All these heads were well attended and it was great to see so many people back on the water.

The regatta season started in April with regattas held all over Munster. There were regattas held in Limerick (O' Brien's Bridge), Castleconnell, Lee, Skibbereen Grand League at the NRC, and a new addition Drinagh Lake 1K regatta. Cork Regatta planned to go ahead but due to adverse weather this was cancelled.

Rowing Ireland ran the Championships in July at the NRC. This regatta was the highlight of the season and was well run by the Championship Committee Led by Lisa O Callaghan assisted by Kieran Kerr and Susan Dunlea and the rest of the Championship Committee with an volunteers from around the country.

At the previous Munster Branch AGM which was held days prior to the RI AGM in 2021, the following officers were elected.

- **Vice President**  
Lisa O'Callaghan, Waterford Boat Club
- **Representative**  
TJ Ryan, Skibbereen Rowing Club
- **Hon Treasurer**  
Susan Dunlea, Monkstown & Cork Harbour RC
- **Hon Secretary**  
Nollag Dwyer, Clonmel Rowing Club

Both the Vice President Lisa O'Callaghan and Representative TJ Ryan were elected to the Board of Rowing Ireland.

**Branch Award:** Every year the Munster Branch awards someone from a club for a Branch Award which is presented at the Rowing Ireland AGM. The 2022 Branch Award will be presented to Lisa O Callaghan (Waterford BC) for all her service over the years to both the Munster Branch and the Board of Rowing Ireland. Lisa was always only a call away from anyone who needed advice or help in any rowing matter. This award will be presented at

the Rowing Ireland AGM on the 20th November.

**Rowing Ireland Committees:** The branch representatives are currently active on the following Rowing Ireland Committees:

- **Munster Vice President:**

Lisa O'Callaghan

Domestic Events, Championships (Chair) & Covid 19 Working Group.

Resigned July 2022. Replaced by Emily Duloherly in August 2022.

- **Munster Representative**

TJ Ryan, Umpires Committee

**Branch Meetings:** Five branch meetings were held the past year with meetings in: Mallow, Fermoy, Limerick and Kerry. The Munster Branch AGM was held on Zoom.

**Club Engagement:** The Munster branch is working on raising the profile of rowing and enhancing the rowing experience for the younger athletes in the coming year.

**Umpires Exams:** Due to the fact that no umpires exam has been held in the last couple of years a couple of online renewal exams were held in the Spring of 2022. An exam for new entrants was held in Shandon early in the summer. Hopefully a regular schedule of umpire exams will be established from the start of 2023.

**Courses:** Recently Rowing Ireland have resumed these training courses in person. As has been the case in recent years, the branch continues to provide subsidised funding to clubs who have attendees at Level 1 and Level 2 Courses.

**Irish Rowing Championships:** The Irish Rowing Championships for 2022 were held in July and the non Championships events were held a week earlier at a 1K event. Both events went off very well and were well supported. Congratulations to the Munster Clubs that were successful at the Irish Rowing Championships in 2022. The clubs taking home championship pots were: UCC 5, UL 1, Skibbereen 4, Cork Boat Club, 1, Kilorglin 1, St. Michaels 2, Castleconnell 2.

**Grand League Regattas:** Metro and Skibbereen held Grand League regattas in 2022. Cork City regatta and Lough Rynn regatta were cancelled.

International Representation: Over the past season,



Munster has been very well represented at International level from the Home International, the Coupe de la Jeunesse and right up to the Olympic Stage. It is very encouraging to see our clubs represented at such a high level. We had representation from Junior Level right up to our Olympic Team. Below is a summary of our athletes from Munster who represented Ireland at the different international events over the past season.

### Home International 2022

London Docklands)

Athletes selected to row at this year's Home International were.

- **Senior Men Scull:** Donnacha Keely (Clonmel), Rory O' Neill (UL).
- **Senior Women Scull:** Roisin Merz (Shandon), Lauren O' Brien (UL).
- **Junior Men Scull:** David Ross Chu (Shandon), Aidan Kearney (St. Michael's), Ethan O' Neill (Muckcross).
- **Junior Women Scull:** Aoife Hendy (Skibbereen), Karen Carey (Cappoquin).
- **Senior Men Sweep:** Michael Cronin (Cork), Jonny Cuddy (Cork)
- **Senior Women Sweep:** Orla Gaffney (UL), Carina Coughlan (UL), Chris Kirwan (UL), Marie Christine Gerhart (UL), Kate Healy (Shannon), Ciara Davis (Shannon).
- **Junior Men Sweep:** Cormac Benson (St. Michaels), Fionn Mc Donnell (St. Michaels), Liam Walter (Castleconnell), Sean O Neill (Castleconnell).
- **Junior Women Sweep:** Sophia Monahan (Lee Valley), Keelan Keating (Lee Valley), Ailise O Sullivan (Skibbereen), Jessica Crowley (Skibbereen).

### Coaches

- Stuart Mc Donnell (St Michaels)
- Anouk Delimenta (Castleconnell)
- Denise Walsh (Skibbereen)
- Ciara O'Brien (UL)

### Coupe de la Jeunesse 2022

Castre de Mino, Spain

#### Saturday

- **JM2X Gold** – Shane Rafferty (St. Michaels)
- **JM4+ Final A** – 6th Place – Christopher O'Donovan (Skibbereen), Noah Giltinan (Pres), Andrew O'Leary (Pres), James Young (Cork).
- **JW4- Final B** – 7th Place – Kelly Oforji (Skibbereen).

#### Sunday

- **JM2X** Gold – 1st Place – Shane Rafferty (St. Michaels)
- **JM4+** Final A – 5th Place – Christopher O'Donovan (Skibbereen), Noah Giltinan (Pres), Andrew O'Leary (Pres), James Young (Cork).
- **JW4-** Final A – 6th Place – Kelly Oforji (Skibbereen).

#### 2022 European Rowing Under 23 Championships

Hazewinkel, Belgium

- **BM1X** Final B – 10th Place – Ryan Spelman (UL)
- **BLW1X** Final B – 7th Place – Niamh Coffey (UL)

#### 2022 European Championships

Munich, Germany

- **LM2x** Gold Fintan McCarthy (Skibbereen), Paul O'Donovan (UCC)
- **LW1x** Final A – 4th Place – Aoife Casey (UCC)
- **LW2x** – Final A – 4th Place – Margret Cremen (UCC), Lydia Heaphy (Skibbereen)
- **W8+** 7th place – Zoe Hyde (Kilorglin), Emily Hegarty (UCC), Tara Hanlon (UCC), Natalie Long (Lee Valley), Leah O'Regan (Shandon)
- **W2X** 12th Place – Zoe Hyde (Kilorglin)
- **W2-** Final A – 4th place – Emily Hegarty (UCC)
- **W4-** -Final A – Silver – 2nd place – Tara Hanlon (UCC), Natalie Long (Lee Valley)

#### 2022 World Cup 2

Poznan, Poland

- **LM1x** Final B – 11th place – Gary O'Donovan (Skibbereen)
- **LM1x** Final A – Silver – 2nd place – Fintan McCarthy (Skibbereen)
- **W4-** Final A – Bronze – 3rd place – Tara Hanlon (UCC), Natalie Long (Lee Valley)
- **W2-** Final A – Bronze – 3rd place – Emily Hegarty (UCC)
- **W2x** Final A – Silver – 2nd place – Zoe Hyde (Kilorglin)
- **LW2X** Final A – Silver – 2nd place – Margret Cremen (UCC), Lydia Heaphy (Skibbereen)

#### 2022 World Cup 3

Lucerne, Switzerland

- **LM1X** – Final A – Gold Paul O'Donovan (UCC)

#### 2022 World U23 Championships



Varese, Italy

- **BW1X** – Final A – Bronze -3rd place – Alison Bergin (Fermoy)
- **BM4-** - Final A – Bronze – 3rd place – Andrew Sheehan (Lee), Adam Murphy (Shandon), John Kearney (UCC)

### 2022 World Juniors

Varese, Italy

- **JM2X** – C Final -13th Place – Ciaran O'Sullivan (Lee).
- **JW2X** – A Final – 6th Place – Holly Davis (Lee Valley), Anna Keating (Shannon).
- **JW4X** – B Final -9th Place – Moya Knowles (Skibbereen), Ayla O'Neill (Kenmare), Kate Reidy (Lee), Lauren McCarthy-Steele (Skibbereen)

### 2022 World Rowing Championships

Racice, Czech Republic

- **LM2x** – Final A – Gold – Fintan McCarthy (Skibbereen), Paul O'Donovan (UCC)
- **LW2X** – Final A – Bronze -3rd Place – Mags Cremen (UCC), Aoife Casey (UCC).
- **LW1X** – Final B - 9th Place – Lydia Heaphy (Skibbereen).
- **W1X** – Final C – 17th Place – Alison Bergin (Fermoy).
- **W2X** – Bronze – 3rd Place – Zoe Hyde (Killorglin).
- **W2-** -Final B - 8th Place – Natalie Long (Lee Valley), Tara O'Hanlon (UCC).
- **W4-** - Final A – 6th Place – Emily Hegarty (UCC).
- **M4-** -Final B – 8th Place – Jack Dorney (Shandon), John Kearney (UCC).

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Munster Clubs to congratulate each and every athlete that represented Ireland at international events over the past season. I think it is worth noting that each of the athletes on the HP Team have come from clubs like yours and mine. Clubs is where the green shoots spring, and the beginning of every athlete's journey in our sport. Munster has a strong representation across all grades at international level and I hope that continues into the future and make sure that you all keep up the good work in your clubs.

We have not only been represented by athletes internationally, coaches and umpires have also represented us and will continue to do so. Dominic Casey



(Skibbereen) is the HP lightweight coach and Fran Keane is the men's coach on the HP Team. Both Kieran Kerr and Lisa O'Callaghan are FISA Umpires who represent Ireland at International Events. There are opportunities to flourish in our sport without being an athlete and it is important that we all recognise this and encourage clubs to branch out into these areas. It will help retain people in our sport.

Condolences: The branch would like to take this opportunity to extend their condolences to those who have had family and friends pass away over the last twelve months.

Emily Duloherly  
Vice-President  
Rowing Ireland - Munster Branch  
November 2022

**Brenda Ewing**  
Chairperson

Committee Members

**Garth Young**  
Vice Chair

**Gordon Reid**  
Secretary

**T Dunlop**  
Treasurer

**D Webb**  
Governance +Events  
1 rep from each affiliated  
NI Club

## Ulster Branch Report

### Introduction

The RI Ulster Branch aims to promote the sport of rowing and support RI Affiliated Clubs in NI in line with Rowing Ireland Strategy.

### Key Achievements

from Nov 2021 to AGM Oct 2022

**Branch AGM 21st September 2021** – Covid regulations meant the meeting was conducted via Zoom. Following this at a SGM, Gordon Reid was elected as the Ulster Vice-president – to replace Brenda Ewing - and Garth Young was re-elected as the Ulster Representative, both for the Board of Rowing Ireland.

**NI Covid Working Group** – the Group is still in existence – however events resumed on a limited basis both North and South with Clubs continuing to be vigilant.

**Branch Meetings** – meetings have been held by Zoom each month with the usual breaks taken in July and December.

### Branch Agenda Items

**Board Business** – updates given by GY or GR. The Rules Review turned into a major piece of work and resulted in an EGM in February 2022 to be voted on. RI Club Support Officer attended the January Branch Meeting. D Webb summarised the agreed Rule changes after the EGM.

**Governance** – included work on the Governing Body Support Programme, a Sport NI led initiative (with help from RI) The Branch Reps agreed an updated Conflicts of Interest policy, an updated Complaints and Investigation policy, an updated Equity & Diversity policy, an updated Safeguarding Policy and an Anti-Doping Policy in line with NI requirements.

There were also updates or queries from Clubs on Rules etc., discussions about RI Coaching courses, discussions about recruiting and retaining Umpires, and updates on Safeguarding and vetting issues. GR provided updates from the RI Governance Committee.

### Rowing Activity

- **Event dates** - D Webb co-ordinated dates for both local and RI Events for the Domestic Events Committee consideration.
- **Newry Head** - A combined Branch and Newry RC effort saw a Head held on the Canal in December – with a restricted entry.
- **CraigavonLakes 1k Regatta** - Despite lengthy discussions and on-site preparations it was not possible to hold the event – however there is agreement to re-form a working Committee by November to begin planning for 2023.
- **RI HP** - Branch Reps were informed about the RI High Performance Development Programme for both Juniors and University rowers based at QUB.
- **Belturbet** - S Dickie met with Belturbet RC to explain what may be available through RI.

**Finances** – The Treasurer provided regular updates on the Branch accounts. Any information received by the Branch Secretary regarding potential Grants available was circulated to all Branch Reps throughout the year.

- Sport NI Transition Funding Prog. – ongoing with assistance from RI.
- Lakes Asset Register - drawn up.
- Mary Peters Trust – the following Awards were made by the Trust – Samantha McCormick £500.00 for World U23 Championships / Ciaran Purdy £500.00 for World U23 Championships and Fergus Bryce £500.00 for World Junior Championships. The Trust has been a generous supporter to our sport over many years

**International representation** – the following represented Rowing Ireland in 2022:

- **World U19 & U23 Championships** – F Bryce (Coleraine GS) / K Pazzia (QUBBC) / C Purdy (QUBBC) / H Moore (QUBBC) / N Timoney (QUBBC)
- **European U23 Championships** – C Purdy (QUBBC)
- **European Championships** – R Corrigan (QUBBC) / P Doyle (Belfast BC)
- **World Championships** - K Pazzia (QUBBC) P Doyle (Belfast BC) / R Corrigan (QUBBC) / H Moore (QUBBC) / N Timoney (QUBBC)



### Championships 2022

- QUBBC / UCCRC – MS4x
- QUBLBC – WClub 1x ( S McCormick)
- QUBLBC – WI 1x ( M Curry)
- QUBLBC – WI 2x
- Bann RC – WJ18 1x (E Hutchinson)
- Bann RC - WJ18 2x
- Enniskillen RBC – WJ18 4-
- Bann RC – WJ18 4X
- Enniskillen RBC – WJ18 8

### Looking forward - 2022/23

**Coach Education** – Encourage new and existing coaches to get involved in coaching and engage with the RI coach Education programme.

**Events** – To encourage support for Events in NI and adjust to suit demand.

**Umpires** – Urgently needs attention due to declining numbers

**Governance** – to continue working on this to re-establish compliance level and recognition with Sport NI  
Safeguarding – ensure RIUB Clubs are compliant with RI requirements

**RIUB Clubs** – encourage all affiliated NI Clubs to be involved with the Branch activities and discussions. Promote retention and recruitment of active club members, coaches, officials and volunteers.

### Conclusion

Thanks to all the Club representatives who attended and contributed to Branch meetings. Hopefully 2022-23 will see us meeting face-to-face again in Rowing Clubs. I hope the RIUB Clubs have a successful 2022-23

Brenda Ewing (Chair)

# Anti-doping Report

## Introduction/Mission

A component of funding through Sport Ireland is the annual reporting of the Anti-Doping Officer to the AGM. As the new Rowing Ireland Anti-Doping Officer, I look forward to continuing Anti-Doping education within our sport and continue to meet all requirements of the ISC. Key Achievements/Activities for 2021

In 2021 we had 44 Anti-Doping tests from March to December. Five of these were In Competition tests. There were NO Positive Results in 2021. We had seventeen athletes registered in the Registered Testing Pool and continue to support and educate these athletes in all areas of Anti-Doping. We continue to provide up to date information to the Anti-Doping Unit on dates and locations of International Regattas, Training Camps and Trials. We also provide a list of domestic events to the ADU where testing of competitors can be carried out.

## Looking Forward – 2022

We continue to operate several Anti-Doping initiatives as detailed below;

- Wallet card distribution to all Clubs, RTP & HIGH-PERFORMANCE athletes, Coaching Courses & Workshops.
- All RTP & HIGH PERFORMANCE athletes will be required to complete an athlete onboarding course in which they will be educated on Anti-Doping, testing and the responsibilities of the athletes.
- Workshops facilitated to the HIGH-PERFORMANCE squad detailing their Anti-Doping responsibilities' and updating them on the latest issued by the ADU and WADA
- Posting of Anti-Doping Policy and other information to the Rowing Ireland website and social media.
- Anti-Doping education being provided through workshops and educational courses.
- Communication of Anti-Doping information to all Club Secretaries.

**Lucy Hanrahan**  
Anti-doping Officer





- Anti-Doping information contained in detail within the High-Performance Selection Strategy document.
- Anti-Doping Notices on all event entries. General messaging re the possibility of athlete testing at both Domestic and International events.

## Conclusion

Our athletes continue to lead the way by showing that rowing is, and continues to be, a clean and drug-free sport. By continuing to protect the spirit of rowing through educational learning of Anti-Doping, it will hopefully continue our success at all levels of the sport both on and off the water well into the future.

# Audit and Risk Report

## Introduction

The Committee's responsibilities relate to audit, financial reporting, periodic review of risk register, and other duties as required from time to time by the Board. Responsibilities include, and are not limited to:

- Recommend to the Board the appointment of external
- Auditor and audit fee
- Agree with the Auditor the scope of the audit
- Review Rowing Ireland's procedures with respect to appropriateness and adequacy of financial controls
- Review the year-end financial statements before submission to the Board
- Monitor compliance with regulatory requirements.

## Key achievements

The Committee met on several occasions during 2021, and 2022.

## Change in Committee Members

After many years of service, Paul Gallen of Athlone Boat Club stepped down from the Committee. Paul was instrumental in the establishment of an Audit Committee and served as Chair and then member of the committee. Rowing Ireland is enormously grateful to Paul for his leadership, guidance and support, and we continually strive to achieve the high standard set by Paul. We were equally grateful to the outgoing Treasurer, Leo Gibson, for his years of service on the Committee, both as member and Treasurer. Without a Treasurer either nominated or appointed at the AGM in 2021, the position of Treasurer as a member of the Committee became vacant. According to the Terms of Reference in place at the 2021 AGM, the composition of the Committee required two Directors and the Treasurer. Ordinarily, the Treasurer fulfilled the second Director requirement.

## 2021 Audit

Following a necessary and temporary change to the Terms of Reference by the Board pending the appointment of a Treasurer, Garth Young joined the Committee to fulfil the requirements to have at least two

**Carol-Ann Smith**  
Chairperson

**Committee members**  
Conor O'Boyle  
Garth Young



Directors of the company on the Committee. 2021 Audit  
Following the appointment of new Auditors, Grant Thornton, the newly formed Committee recommended to the Board that the Board and the Audit & Risk Committee come together for the purposes of conducting the pre-audit, and post-audit meeting with the Auditors. Typically, this work is undertaken by the Committee, which then makes its recommendation(s) to the Board. This is a key new relationship, and involvement of the Board throughout the process was considered an important step for this audit. During the period between the commencement and completion of the audit, the audit team changed in Grant Thornton and the relationship management was transferred from the Dublin office to the Cork office.

The Auditor issued an unqualified audit opinion, and the Board approved the accounts.

The Audit & Risk Committee assisted the Board of Rowing Ireland to prepare the Directors Report in order to showcase the achievements during the year, with the assistance of the CEO and her staff colleagues.

## Looking Forward - 2022

Two key tasks for the Committee in 2022 are:  
Review the company's internal processes and procedures, policies, and Terms of Reference that relate to the Committee's responsibilities.  
Recruit new members to the Committee.

## Conclusion

The Committee is seeking additional members to support its work and to welcome members of the rowing community to both share and gain experience as part of this important committee. The burden of work is limited, shared, and relatively predictable. Please contact us at [auditcommittee@rowingireland.ie](mailto:auditcommittee@rowingireland.ie) for information.

## Treasurer Report

Year end – 31/12/2021. The audited accounts for what was another difficult year in 2021 were reviewed by the Audit Committee Chaired by Carol Ann Smith. They were subsequently approved by the Board of Rowing Ireland. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Carol Ann and Paul for their work and diligence. I would also like to acknowledge the work carried out by Alec Moffett (Financial Officer) and Michelle Carpenter (CEO). Some of the main items in the annual audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 are analysed against previous performances in the various tables below

Income	3,227,203
Expenditure:	3,243,291
Other income	20,441
Operating Surplus/Deficit	4,353

#### **Main Income**

Grant income	<b>2,288,097</b>
Amortisation of deferred grant income	429,768
Sponsorships, advertising & other income	190,064
Development Income	106,538
Registration fees	76,658
Championships	38,264
Athlete contributions	32,250
Affiliation fees	29,033
Fees from courses & conferences	27,172
NRC	6,100
Home internationals	3,259
	<b>3,227,203</b>

#### **Main Expenditure**

HP programme	
Depreciation of tangible assets	570,851
Administration costs	468,047
Development programme	304,646
NRC	133,379
Championships	108,431
Coach Education	48,932
Online Shop	20,848
Branch & Coactal rowing development	11,000
Audit fees	6,050
Board & Committee costs	4,782
	<b>3,243,291</b>



<b>Overall</b>	<b>2021</b>
Income	3,227,203
Expenditure:	- 3,243,291
Other income	20,441
Operating Surplus/Deficit	4,353
<b>Main Income</b>	
Grant income	2,288,097
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	<b>3,227,203</b>
<b>Main Expenditure</b>	
HP programme	1,566,325
Depreciation of tangible assets	570,851
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Coach Education	48,932
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